



# IRON FIREMAN

# Iron Man

PUBLISHED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF IRON FIREMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, PORTLAND, OREG

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In this picture is a layout of the major parts that go into the motor.  
From right to left: (1) switch end flange (2) rotor (3) stator (4) shell (5) pulley and flange

## INTRODUCING — THE IRON FIREMAN MOTOR

In order to give steadier work to its employees and to be less dependent on outside manufacturers, Iron Fireman is building motors.

The first one to be developed and put into production is the 1/6 HP split phase motor. Designed for use on the M-2 and Vortex type oil burner, this motor required hours of research and experimentation.

Although the laboratory tests have been very favorable, the complete story of actual quality and efficiency of our motors will not be known until they are put into large-scale production, and time tested in the field. Gratifying as our initial verification of quality is, we still have large problems ahead of us; many hours of research and experimenting with assembly methods are needed before we can produce motors at a price where it will pay us to do so.

To aid in building an efficient assembly line, which holds the secret of motor production cost, we have developed methods which greatly simplify phases in the assembly operation.

One method is the automatic winding machine, which is being operated to wind coils used in the main windings and starter windings of the starter core assemblies. The operator of this machine

can now wind one set of coils in 12 seconds, which previously took minutes to wind. Another method utilizes a machine developed in our experimental department, which is capable of circular welding a motor rotor in 17 seconds. With more timesaving and quality-adding methods like the above, we will be able to produce our motors efficiently.

Although the motor originated at Heating Control, most of the departments in the two Portland divisions have been working on this new product. The tool-rooms are being called upon for dies, jigs and fixtures; the machine departments are working on castings, shafts, rotors and stator cores; and the inspection departments have devised new methods and tools for the efficient checking of the new product.

We feel there is a future in store for us and our new product, if we continue to meet our motor problems successfully. Plans are already beginning to materialize for a variety of mounts and motor sizes, which will give us a motor capable of being used on both oil and coal installations.

With the continued effort and cooperation on the part of all employees of both divisions, we will be able to manufacture a motor and be proud to place an Iron Fireman nameplate on it.

## RED CROSS BLOOD PROGRAM LAUNCHED

A new national blood program is on its way! Blood cannot be purchased commercially and supplied in the various forms to meet the needs without costs that are beyond the resources of millions of American citizens. Under the Red Cross plan there will be no cost for the product to the beneficiary.

It is universally recognized that a sufficient supply of blood can come only from a voluntary blood donor program. That is why the Red Cross is embarking upon this new project, and counting upon the citizenship to support it. This program has the full backing of all major medical and health agencies, including the American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association.

The new Red Cross blood bank to be opened later this year in Portland to provide free blood for civilians will be made possible through contributions to the 1948 Red Cross fund campaign in March.

Important services to be continued by the Red Cross this year are emergency disaster relief, aid and counsel to veterans and their families, volunteer services in the veterans hospitals, first aid and swimming classes at Shattuck school pool, home nursing and nutrition classes and the Junior Red Cross.

Volunteers play a major role in activities of Portland-Multnomah county chapter, as they do in the other 3,755 county chapters of the Red Cross in the United States. During 1947, 149,655 volunteer hours of service were given in Multnomah county to Red Cross work by an average of 500 persons a month.

Women who sew and knit gave 102,748 hours and made 18,649 sewed garments. For use in overseas relief programs and this community, 2,595 knitted articles and 27,877 surgical dressings were made.

Dollars given to the Red Cross fund drive go much farther because of the large number of trained volunteers who give their time free of charge to the services of the Red Cross, which is known as the great mercy organization of the world.

## How Did We Do Last Year?

The stockholders always want to know each year just what has been done with their money, so management makes an accounting through the annual report. Employees, too, are interested in this report as it is a measure of the progress we have made as individuals and as a company.

This report covers the entire Iron Fireman organization, not just the Portland plants, so remember this when you consider the following facts. We did make progress last year in spite of having been forced to contend with some of the most complex problems in our history.

Our sales were higher in 1947 than in any other peace time year—\$12,810,541.00—11% higher than in 1946. However, part of this increase was due to higher prices. 71.5% of this total was spent for materials and wages—46.5% for materials and 25% for wages. Profits of \$707,098.00 came from our regular manufacturing operations (Plant 1, Heating Control, Cleveland plant and Toronto plant), retail sales, installation and service, and dealers. In addition, an unusual item of \$236,929.91 was taken into profit from a reserve for additional cost arising out of war (reconversion costs) and for a reserve for taxes on prior years.

This \$707,098.00 represents an operations net profit of 5½%, in spite of the fact that since 1940 our material costs have risen an average of 73% and our labor costs have gone up 76%.

The following is a quotation from President Banfield's report to the stockholders:

### "OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

Following in line after food and shelter, warmth is of first importance to the home; and fuel is basic to all industrial production. Therefore, we know that there will always be a demand for the type of products that we manufacture. People will buy from the company giving the best value at the lowest cost. Toward this end, we must constantly strive. By improving our products and our methods of distribution, and increasing the efficiency of operations through greater individual output, we can widen the markets for our products, provide better service to the public, and insure the soundness and stability of our organization for both employees and stockholders.

The year 1948 promises to be one that will tax the resources and energies of the Company. However, we have overcome many handicaps in the last few years, and . . . your management feels confident that the problems of 1948 can be met."

## IRON FIREMAN

### MARCHES 2108½ MILES

Counting a mile for each dime contributed to the March of Dimes (National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis), the employees of the three Portland divisions of Iron Fireman traveled 2,108½ miles, an average of 64 miles per employee.

The total contributions were \$210.85—Heating Control gave \$52.75; Retail, \$21.60; and Plant 1, \$136.50.

Highlight of the drive at Heating Control was one employee's contribution of all pennies saved since last year's March of Dimes. She says it's not only fun saving pennies for such a worthy cause, but that the contribution isn't even missed.

"Many times a year the people turn to the Red Cross . . . Once a year the Red Cross turns to the People."

—President Truman.

## IRON MAN

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Peter Storti

On December 1, Peter Storti joined the Iron Fireman Manufacturing Co. to help in the development of our oil burner line.

Before coming to Iron Fireman, Mr. Storti spent eighteen years with the Ray Oil Burner Co. and two years with Enterprise Engine and Foundry Co., both in San Francisco. He worked in service and installation when he first joined the Ray Oil Burner Company, and then designed controls for the electrical manufacturing department. His position at the time he left was executive in charge of the local retail department, experimental laboratory and dealer relations. During these years, he did considerable traveling on the west coast and throughout the United States.

In 1937, he was one of a group of salesmen to tour Europe and the Near East, where they visited eighteen countries including Turkey, Palestine and Egypt. On one occasion, when they took the train from Turkey to Syria, they went through a little-traveled section where the people wore the same style dress they did three thousand years ago and the only means of transportation was by camel and jackass. He says it was just like looking into another world.

Mr. Storti and his family have come to Portland for their first taste of living in the great Northwest. He has traveled through here before, but has never lived here. In fact, his home has always been in California except for one year in Chicago while in school. He has one son seventeen years old, and another two years old. His hobby, when he has time for it, is horseback riding.

## RAMBLINGS FROM RETAIL

By JIM COLLINS

A couple of new cars have been seen driving up on the Retail parking lot recently. Proud owner of a new green Fleetmaster Chev is Gil Dean; and equally pleased is Fred Taylor with his new gray Ford Sedan. Fred is turning his over to the state in a couple of months though, as full payment on his income tax. The tax is rough this year; its hitting everyone. Just informed by the local school board that they are running a tax computation course in lieu of fourth grade arithmetic for the benefit of those who have paper routes.

Retail has the "new look" now too. Her name is June Vance and she has recently taken over the job as service clerk. A bit of a foreigner to this part of the country, as she hails from far away Vancouver, Washington. She's easy to look at, but just a little hard to find—only five feet high and just pushing a hundred pounds. Need we say she is a very popular addition to the office force?

A very popular sport of late is to gather at some suitable spot after Thursday night bowling and discuss business over liquid media. Also popular is to have a Traction Company bus smash your car up for you the next morning. Evonne George is now taking the trolley to work. An equally popular sport of late is taking retail bowling team for three or four points.

Retail started the new year off right by painting the trucks. We have, at this counting, six trucks dated from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons. Until recently you have been seeing them around town painted from a flanging red down to muddy blue, but now all are blossoming out in Iron Fireman blue with white and orange trim. The boys in our shop did a fine job of sanding, spray painting and finishing down the main coat. They are really a good looking fleet of trucks now.

Speaking of income tax, which we weren't, Lloyd Wisher of the furnace crew, and incidentally the man with the paint gun talent, came through recently with another exemption—a baby girl. He is now the father of four. It appears that he has talents other than spray painting.

The weather has been pretty cold of late, but nothing was as cold as the photographic plate in the TB X-Ray trailer on a frosty Monday morning a couple of weeks ago.

Say, don't forget the employees' participation in retail sales. If you don't have the participation coupons, you can get them at the Retail office. Remember that any prospect lead you give us that turns out to be a customer nets you five bucks, and that will buy new shoes for baby.

## VITALISTICS

### ENGAGEMENTS:

Eileen Harr, Heating Control, to Archie Anderson.  
Dorothy Mendenhall, Order & Billing, to Al John.

### WEDDING BELLS:

Ida Caldwell, Heating Control, to John Helmes, December 12.  
Pauline Strick, Heating Control, to Robert Barkus, December 28.  
Edna Jackson, Heating Control, to Robert Benman, January 20.  
Peter Schlichter, Plant 1, to Lavina Zack, January 31.  
Luella Hill, Heating Control, to Bob Hanson, February 14.

### STORK CLUB:

To Mr. and Mrs. Lee Coo, a son, George Allen, 8 lbs., January 8.  
To Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wisher, Retail, a daughter, Marguerite Annette, 7 lb. 7 oz., January 17.  
To Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Knepper, a daughter, Mary Anne, 7 lb. 11 oz., January 20.  
To Mr. and Mrs. Donald Charters, Plant 1, twin daughters, Katherine Rose (3 lb. 4 oz.) and Karen Winifred (3 lb. 1 oz.), January 23.

### CONDOLENCES:

To Fredella Helsler, Heating Control, on the death of her father.  
To Arthur Gahner, Plant 1, on the death of his father.





Left: Lyle Hogue, of the Production Planning Dept. Right top: Book ends. Lower right: Slab of petrified wood. This wood actually grew in the forests millions of years ago. Now replaced by silica, it still maintains each minute cell and growth ring. This slab is about 10x14 in. in size and 2 1/4 inches thick; it weighs about 25 pounds and will produce 2 pairs of book ends. The outer area is a light cream color and the inner rings are darker brownish shades. This piece is one of seven slabs cut from a chunk found in the hills of Washington.

## TETRAGONAL TRISOCTAHEDRON

By LYLE V. HOGUE

You don't know the meaning of tetragonaltrisoctahedron? I didn't either until I looked it up last night and thereby added another bit of information to my growing pleasure of gem knowledge, gem collecting and cutting. Tetragonaltrisoctahedron is a descriptive definition of the character of a certain crystal and indicates that it has twenty-four four-sided faces. This beginning, of course, is but a "come-on" to induce you to read more of what I should like to tell regarding my latest hobby, namely, gem collecting and cutting.

The subject has long fascinated me, but not until recent months has it materialized into the real doing. And more, it is quite possible for anyone to do likewise, inasmuch as the material is found in the Washington petrified wood and the agate material from Oregon.

This diversion takes you on field trips that are miniature vacations any time of the year. You will soon pride yourself upon learning to identify and name specimens which are found. Too, you will be visiting other collections of new-found

acquaintances and you will find them a congenial lot. Agates of varied quality can be found on the beaches, secured from Montana, imported from Brazil or dug from the deserts of Oregon.

Many of you have displayed particular interest in the Oregon "Thunder Egg" and I would like to tell you more about them. However, since these specimens are only about two by three inches in size, they could not be adequately illustrated for this article.

The term "thunder egg" is derived from an old Indian legend that thunder storms were the expressions of angered mountain spirits. During their wrath, the mountains hurled forth these hot stones from within their fiery depths. Actually the thunder egg is an agate-filled nodule surrounded by a matrix shell of varying thickness.

Several million years ago, a flow of lava spread over an area and in the process of bubbling and cooling, left hollow gas pockets. Soon (perhaps several thousand years) the underground waters began to seep in and around these pocket-

ets and gradually loosened the soils for more freedom of water passage. These waters, supersaturated with silica, gradually built layer upon layer of agate material within the matrix. This is plainly read by examining the quartz lining and noticing the bands and fortification which go to build up the interior. Various colors are directly influenced by the minerals being carried in solution. For example, (Continued on page 8)

## NEW CATALOG FOR IRON FIREMAN

For the first time in its history, Iron Fireman has a catalog of complete Iron Fireman products. There has always been a parts catalog, but this is something new and different—a beautifully illustrated color catalog for the sales force that should help them sell more equipment in 1948.

## Mac's Musings

By Arnet McBroom

The average American life is full of various difficulties. There is the difficulty in getting up in the morning. There is the headache after a holiday celebration. There are the season's best wishes on a lovely card signed with a name one can't decipher. And there was the problem of deciding what to give one's friends and relatives for Christmas. A hard life, I call it!

Of all the big days of the season, I like December 25 best. I am scared of January 1 for I don't know what it is going to lead to. It is exciting, but it isn't restful. It is like jumping out of an airplane and waiting for the parachute to open. But I am not scared of December 25. I have met it before, and found that it keeps its qualities from year to year and indeed is an old friend.

I swore off smoking, for one week only, on December 6. My theory was that if I stopped that long before New Year's, I would be smart enough by December 31 not to swear off for a longer period, or for good.

The expression a woman wears on her face is far more important than the clothes she wears on her back. (By the way, fellows, this is a good line to remember when your wife wants a fur coat!)